

Appln. No. 10/575,565
Amdt. dated February 3, 2011
Reply to Office Action of August 3, 2010

Amendments to the Drawings

Please substitute the attached substitute sheets of drawings for Figures 1, 2A, 2B, 2C and 3 for the originally filed drawings. Annotated and replacement sheets are provided. No new matter has been added.

REMARKS

Claims 1-65, 67-71, 82, 84-88, and 91-94 are pending in the present application, claims 91-94 having been added and claims 66, 72 and 83 having been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer herein. Claims 72-81 and 89-90 have also been cancelled as being directed to a non-elected invention, without prejudice or disclaimer of Applicant's right to file a continuation application to that subject matter. The Office Action and cited references have been considered. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The drawings are objected to as to failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5). Correction has been made. Annotated and substitute sheets for the sheet containing Figures 1, 2A, 2B, 2C and 3 are being filed herewith. No new matter has been added. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as being anticipated by Wilson (U.S. Patent No. 4,995,693). Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Noguchi (U.S. Patent No. 4,701,005). Claims 1, 3-5, 8, 10, 11, 17, 35-40, 43, 47, 65, 67, 68, 72, 82, and 84-86 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kapellner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 2006/0279662). Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Noguchi in view of Kapellner. Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 2, 6, 7, 9, 12-16, 18-34, 41, 42, 44-46, 48-64, 66-70, 83, 87, and 88 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

To advance prosecution, and without conceding the merits of the rejections, Applicant has amended the claims based on the allowed claims. The amendments are mainly as follows:

- Claims 73-81, 89 and 90 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer as being non-elected claims.
- Claim 1 is amended to include the subject matter of allowed Claim 2. As the subject matter of Claim 2 relates to feature (i) of Claim 1, alternative/additional feature (ii) is removed from Claim 1 and added to Claim 3.
- Claim 65 is amended to include the subject matter of Claim 66. Claim 66 is therefore cancelled.
- Claim 72 is cancelled.
- Claims 82 and 74 are amended similar to that of Claims 1 and 3. More specifically, Claim 82 is amended to include the subject matter of Claim 83 (which claim is now cancelled) and remove therefrom feature (ii), which is now added to Claim 84.
- New Claims 91-94 are added presenting independent form of allowed Claims 9, 12, 29 and 58.
- Dependency of Claims 2, 3, 69 and 84 has been amended accordingly.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-65, 67-71 and 82-88 are patentable over the prior art of record whether taken alone or in combination as proposed in the Office Action.

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In view of the above amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections of record.

Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance and early notice to the effect is most earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at 202-628-5197.

Respectfully submitted,

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